

1       Accordingly, the present invention provides a method for  
2 making (or generating) a presentation on a plurality of  
3 computers or computer stations utilizing a software control  
4 program. The method may comprise one or more steps such as, for  
5 instance, providing that the software control program is written  
6 in a platform independent computer programming language,  
7 installing at least one instance of the software control  
8 computer program on each of the plurality of computers, running  
9 the software control program simultaneously on the plurality of  
10 programs, and automatically starting unlike or different  
11 sequences of displays for each of the plurality of computers  
12 utilizing the simultaneously running software control programs.  
13 Other steps may include providing that the sequence of displays  
14 differs between the plurality of computers and/or installing a  
15 respective set of files to be played by each of the plurality of  
16 computers for the presentation including an initial file to be  
17 played and an ending file to be played and/or timing playing of  
18 each the files of the respective set of files for each of the  
19 plurality of computers such that a beginning time and play  
20 duration time is effectively associated with each file.

21       The step of automatically starting may further comprise  
22 providing an initial file start time for each instance of the  
23 software control program on each of the plurality of computers.

1        Thus, a method for making a presentation comprising steps  
2        such as, for instance, installing for single execution of the  
3        software computer control program on a one of a plurality of  
4        computers, or alternatively for simultaneous and independent  
5        ("in parallel") execution of the software program on a one of a  
6        plurality of computers, installing a respective set of files to  
7        be played by each of the plurality of computers for the  
8        presentation including an initial file to be played and an  
9        ending file to be played, associating timing for playing of each  
10       the files of the respective set of files for each of the  
11       plurality of computers whereby an effective beginning time and  
12       play duration time is associated with each file, providing a  
13       start time for an initial file to be played on each of the  
14       plurality of computers, providing that each computer is  
15       synchronized to a common time, providing that each instance of  
16       execution of the control program on each of the plurality of  
17       computers displays the initial file at the respective start  
18       time, and sequentially playing each file in each respective set  
19       of files for each of the plurality of computers.

20       The respective set of files for each of the plurality of  
21       computers may include graphic files and/or audio files to be  
22       played. The method may comprise instances of simultaneous and  
23       independent executions of the software control program on a

1 computer associated with a plurality of monitors where each  
2 instance of execution of the software control program  
3 independently coordinates a presentation display sequence for a  
4 respective one of the plurality of monitors operated by the  
5 computer. The effective beginning time and play duration time  
6 may be determined from an absolute beginning time and an  
7 absolute ending time or the effective beginning time and play  
8 duration time may be determined based on a collective time of  
9 previous image files and a given play duration time.

10 Thus, the invention provides a software control program is  
11 operable for running simultaneously on a plurality of computers  
12 and may include software elements such, for instance, a read  
13 scenario command to read the scenario file which lists the files  
14 to be played and associated timing thereof, at least one get  
15 image command to retrieve each image file listed in the scenario  
16 file, and a software timing control operable for coordinating  
17 timing of display of each image file for each of the plurality  
18 of computers to provide a coordinated presentation utilizing the  
19 plurality of computers. The software control program may be  
20 written in a platform independent computer programming language  
21 so as to be operable on computers which may have dissimilar or  
22 different operating systems. The invention may further comprise  
23 a display command to designate a particular display for a